

Tomorrow, Friday, March 20th, the Environment Committee will hold a public hearing on a series of bills relating to aquaculture and shellfishing. I am in full support of all 3 bills as outlined below.

Municipalities in Southeastern Connecticut sell a combined 6,000 recreational shellfishing permits on an annual basis and bear the state's last remaining untapped shellfishing grounds. As such, the state should do everything in their power to support an emerging market along the shoreline. PLEASE SUPPORT these efforts !

The list of proposed legislation that will receive public hearing tomorrow is below.

**H.B. No. 5720: AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DOUBLE THE CAPACITY FOR SHELLFISH SAMPLE TESTING AND TO ESTABLISH A SITE FOR SHELLFISH SAMPLE TESTING EAST OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER.**

To support the expansion of the state's shellfish industry by providing additional facilities for shellfish testing and reducing wait times for the results of such testing.

**H.B. No. 5722: AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF CERTAIN OYSTERS THAT ARE TWO AND ONE-HALF INCHES IN LENGTH.**

To authorize the taking of oysters that are two and one-half inches in length if such oysters are cultivated in a confined apparatus prior to such harvesting.

**S.B. No. 357: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF THE SHELLFISH INDUSTRY IN CONNECTICUT.**

To promote the state's shellfish industry through the establishment of a council to oversee the policies and procedures of the state's Bureau of Aquaculture and to afford whistle-blower protections to employees of state shellfish grounds lessees who make certain complaints concerning the administration of such leases.

Signed: Edward R. Johnson, 87 Main Street, Noank, CT 06340